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Professor NEWCOMB was entrusted with the duty of preparing a provisional fundamental catalogue, which is to be finished during 1896. This catalogue is to contain about 1000 fundamental stars. The Conference laid down various other principles on which the catalogue should be constructed which are not mentioned here. It also expressed the hope that a scheme of international co-operation might be established for the calculation of the perturbations and ephemerides of the minor planets (of which there are now more than 400). The opinion was also formally expressed that a first-class *reversible* meridian-instrument, suitable for fundamental work, should be erected at one of the southern observatories. The changes of astronomical constants, as recommended by the Conference, are to take effect in the ephemeris for 1901. "There appears to be every reason to expect that the catalogue will be ready in good time, and that astronomers may look forward to the inauguration of a new era in the history of astronomical ephemerides at the commencement of the twentieth century."—Abstract of a paper by Dr. DOWNING in the *Monthly Notices R. A. S.*, Vol. LVII, page 299.

PROBABLE ERROR OF A SINGLE OBSERVED POSITION IN  
SOME FREQUENTLY USED CATALOGUES AND  
COLLECTIONS OF STARS.

The probable accidental error of an observed place, depending on a single observation, in the following catalogues, etc., is (approximately) as follows:—

	R. A. (Equator).		Decl.
	<i>s.</i>		<i>"</i>
Harvard College Observatory (Vol. XII)	-	.02	0.3
Berlin Observatory (670 stars)	-	.02	0.3
“ Observatory (521 stars)	-	± 0.03	± 0.3
Lick Observatory (310 stars)	-	.03	0.3
Pulkowa Catalogue (Vol. VIII)	-	.03	0.3
“ “ (5634 stars)	-	.04	0.3
Washburn Observatory (303 stars)	-	.03	0.4
Yarnall's Catalogue	-	.03*	0.5*
Dunsink Observatory (717 stars)	-	.04	0.5
Harvard College Observatory (A. G. Zone)	-	.03	0.6
Dudley Observatory (A. G. Zone)	-	.04	0.6
Helsingfors-Gotha Observatory (A. G. Zone)	-	.06	0.6
Cincinnati Observatory (2000 stars)	-	.05	0.6
Bonn Observatory (Vol. VI; bright stars)	-	.04	0.6

	R. A. (Equator). s.	Decl. "
Bonn Observatory (Vol. VI; stars 9th magnitude)	.06	0.6
" " (Vol. VI; stars 9.2 and 9.3) -	.07	0.8
Grant's Glasgow Catalogue - - -	.06	0.8
Cordoba Zone Catalogue - - -	.06	0.8
Bond's Zones (H. C. O. Vol. II) ' - -	.07	0.8
Schjellerup's 10,000 stars - - -	.08	0.8
Copeland and Borgen's Catalogue - -	.08	0.8
Wilson's 644 stars - - -	.09	0.8
Dunsink Observatory (1600 stars) - -	.07	0.9
Armagh Observatory (Catalogue II) - -	.08	0.9
Lamont's Zones (re-reduced in Munich Annals, II)	.08	0.9
Harkness' Gilliss Southern Zones - - -	.04	1.1
Weisse's Bessel's Zones, I - - -	.16	1.4
Göttingen (Klinkerfues Schur, 6900 stars) -	.10	1.4
Argelander's Southern Zones (Oeltzen) -	.12	1.4
Weisse's Bessel's Zones, II - - -	.15	1.6
Cincinnati Observatory (4050 stars) - -	.12	1.8
Cape (Photographic) <i>Durchmusterung</i> - -	.27*	2.6*
Lacaille (B. A. A. S.) - - -	0.3*	8.7*
Section II, Bonn <i>Durchmusterung</i> - -	.38*	9.6*
Cordoba (visual) " - - -	.42*	13.8*
Section I, Bonn " - - -	.70*	25.6*

E. S. H.

## ADDENDUM TO DR. MARTH'S ARTICLE ON PAGE 76.

	h. m. s.	° °	° °	"	°
1890, Aug. 24	7 38 5	26.71+1.45	-6.38+1.02	972.3	1.92
1891, July 14	9 33 29.5	16.40+1.15	-5.25-2.61	908.6	18.45
14	9 35 32.5	16.42+1.15	-5.26-2.60	908.6	18.45
1895, July 30	8 22 54	21.98+0.93	+6.69+7.51	929.4	10.16
31	9 16 49	34.63+0.91	+6.23+7.55	918.8	4.92
31	9 17 49	34.64+0.91	+6.23+7.55	918.8	4.92
Oct. 10	16 2 2.2	184.33-0.93	-5.35-5.36	966.2	6.57

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

Owing to a misunderstanding, an essential part of the manuscript of the present number was not received until April 10th, which accounts for the delay in the issue.

THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

\* Probable errors of a printed catalogue-place.